

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 10519 171213Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CG, PGOV
SUBJECT: MILITARY JUSTICE TO BE APPLIED IN SHABA

REF: LUBUMBASHI 157

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY, AZAP, OF DECEMBER 15, CAPTAIN GENERAL BUMBA HAS ANNOUNCED IN LUBUMBASHI THAT "HENCEFORTH ALL ARMED BANDITS, MURDERERS, THEIVES, AND SMUGGLERS IN SHABA WILL BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE ARMY AND TRIED ACCORDING TO MILITARY JUSTICE, WHERE ALL OF THE RIGORS OF THE LAW WILL BE APPLIED TO THEM."

2. AZAP REPORTS THAT BUMBA MADE THIS STATEMENT BEFORE AN AUDIENCE WHICH HAD GATHERED TO HEAR OF "THE SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES TO BE APPLIED IN SHABA IN ORDER TO REPRESS A RESURGENCE" OF LAWLESSNESS. BUMBA DECLARED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF RESTORING LAW BY THE PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL CITIZENS.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO LUBUMBASHI'S HIGH CRIME RATE. IN EARLY OCTOBER, LUBUMBASHI DAILY MJUMBO NOTED THE PROBLEM. AT THAT TIME AUTHORITIES APPLIED MEASURES TO CONTROL MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CITY AND USED MILITARY

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UNITS TO CONDUCT SEARCHES (REFTEL). THE PRESENCE OF CAPTAIN GENERAL BUMBA IN SHABA AT THIS TIME IS EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO INDICATE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE REGION. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT BUMBA'S MOVES ARE PARTIALLY THE RESULT OF PERSISTENT STORIES OF YOUNG LUBAS BEING RECRUITED BY EX-KATANGAN

GENDARMES IN ANGOLA (SEE SEPARATE INTELLIGENT REPORTS).

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